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JOHNSON PLAN HIT BY REDS

Viet Rural Program Causes Communist Concern

By PAUL W. WARD

(Washington Bureau of The Sun)

Washington, Feb. 9—South Vietnamese Communist foes give signs of being worried by the rural development program in that country to which President Johnson's just-concluded Honolulu meeting with its leaders has given new impetus.

Their apprehensions are evident in broadcasts to the world in general that, as taped and translated here, show a pervasive reluctance to mention that product of the Honolulu parley.

Hamlets Warned

They are more evident in Communist broadcasts directly to South Vietnamese peasants warning them that their hamlets are about to be invaded by "United States secret agents" operating in the guise of rural construction teams.

The latter broadcasts—in Vietnamese—come from Hanoi, capital of the North Vietnamese Communist regime that, Washington contends, directs, supplies and controls all the anti-Government forces operating in South Vietnam.

The broadcasts to the world in general come from Moscow, East Berlin, Warsaw, Prague and Peking as well as Hanoi.

Called "Military Conference"

Their overseas broadcasters have poured out thousands of words in various languages about the Honolulu conference since President Johnson announced arrangements for it last Friday. They have treated the meeting from beginning to end as one called for the sole purpose of "escalating" the Vietnam war.

All of them refer to it only as a "military conference," with Moscow, for example, asserting President Johnson took with him from Washington "all the officials responsible for planning the war."

out United States aggression in Vietnam."

Rarely have either European or Asian Communist broadcasters permitted themselves to refer to the participation of John W. Gardner, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, and Orville L. Freeman, Secretary of Agriculture. In no case, have they mentioned either by name.

They have been comparably averse to mentioning the participation of Premier Nguyen Cao Ky of South Vietnam and Nguyen Van Thieu, chairman of the National Leadership Committee that installed Ky as Premier 7½ months ago. Their references to Ky and Thieu have been, moreover, overtly derogatory in purpose.

European Communist broadcasters keep telling listeners that Ky and Thieu were "summoned" to Honolulu by President Johnson. Asian Communist broadcasters, trying similarly to discredit the Saigon regime Ky and Thieu head, refer to them as President Johnson's "puppets," "flunkies," and "running dogs."

In their analyses of the Honolulu conference as solely a "military" parley, they assign the starring role to President Johnson, Dean Rusk, Secretary of State, and Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of Defense—all three of whom were cited even more critically a few days ago in a memorandum regarding the United States so-called search for peace.

Termed War Criminals

Issued by North Vietnam's foreign Ministry and broadcast externally in English from Hanoi, said:

"Johnson, Rusk and McNamara are not peace-lovers but war criminals who should be tried."

Last June 25 Hanoi also broadcast—in the name of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam—what it called a "death list" of Americans and others slated for assassinations by the Communists whenever opportunity offers. That list also included President Johnson but not Rusk or McNamara.

It included, in addition, both Ky and Thieu plus Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, then United States Ambassador to South Vietnam and now one of President Johnson's advisers here, and Gen. William Westmoreland.

Hanoi's admonitory broadcasts about the "rural construction" program that Vice President Humphrey has just gone from Honolulu to Saigon to help accelerate try to draw capital from the Communist movement's old, world-wide and unceasing campaign to persuade Africans, Asians and Latin Americans as well as Europeans that the United States' Central Intelligence Agency is evil personified.

The broadcasts to South Vietnam, accordingly, speak of the "rural construction" program as a CIA invention and undertaking. Using selective quotations from American newspapers to support that warning, one Hanoi broadcast, for example, said:

"The United States and its henchmen are plotting to use the cover of rural building policy to carry out their plan for pacification aimed at reestablishing their oppressive rule in the southern rural areas following their protracted mop-up operations and attack campaign."

"Received Bitter Blows"

"Actually, no matter what form may be used by the Lansdale clique to cover their pacification tricks, their tricks will be smashed by the southern people."

Referring again to Edward G. Lansdale, who is a counter-insurgency planner assigned as a special assistant to Henry Cabot Lodge, United States Ambassador at Saigon, the broadcast said:

"He has already received bitter blows from the southern peasants when acting as a master to (the late Premier) Ngo Dinh Diem in the tricks of Communist denunciation and extermination, land reform, pilot village building, agroville development, together with secret agents disguised as Catholic relief agents, agricultural cooperative cadres, and so forth."

Refer To Blue Book

Speaking about the Communist apprehensions displayed in respect to the new program, authorities here said Hanoi and its backers had reacted even more emphatically a few years ago when South Vietnam began to make measurable strides in economic development under the Diem regime.

What they now call a North Vietnamese military aggression against South Vietnam began at that connection to a blue book

that the State Department issued here in December, 1961, that said:

"When the Republic of (South) Vietnam was born in 1955, its economy was a shambles ... there were few observers, not excluding the Vietnamese themselves, who thought the new republic could survive ... (for more than) six months to a year."

"Close To Economic Miracle"

"(But) the years 1956 to 1960 produced something close to an economic miracle in South Vietnam. Food production rose at an average of 7 per cent a year and prewar levels were achieved and passed. While per capita food production in the north was 10 per cent lower in 1960 than it had been in 1956, it was 20 per cent higher in the south. ...

"Despite the vastly larger industrial plant inherited by the north when Vietnam was partitioned (at the 1954 Geneva Conference), gross national product is considerably larger in the south. In 1960 it was estimated at \$110 per person in the south and \$70 in the north."

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